

# NEWS

From the County of San Bernardino  
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

3-24-10

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## County takes action to address West Nile season

Massive amounts of recent rain have jump-started the instances of green pools and standing water throughout the County. With approval of new fees for Green Pool Abatement, the County Board of Supervisors encourages residents to be alert to green pools and standing water that can provide breeding ground for West Nile Virus carrying mosquitoes.

The San Bernardino County Department of Environmental Health is very concerned this increase will result in an early West Nile season. The Department will be on the lookout for green pools and will take constituent calls regarding green pools and will post notices for pool owners. If green pools are not drained timely, the County will take steps to drain the pool and will charge fees to the pool owner. Green Pool Abatement fees are now \$208 and additional fees can be added by the hour if County staff must make arrangements to drain the pools.

Fourth District Supervisor and Board Chairman Gary Ovitt said, "County residents need to remember what a real problem West Nile was last summer and we could easily see a repeat of that this summer because of the recent rains. There has already been one reported case of West Nile Virus in Los Angeles County.

Most residents have by now heard of the West Nile Virus and what a potentially devastating virus it can be. Symptoms are often flu-like and can include; headaches, nausea or fever. West Nile can be a much more serious concern than the common cold or flu virus, especially to the elderly and those with compromised immune systems.

To cut down on mosquito breeding, residents are urged to eliminate standing water. People should also secure their window screens and wear insect repellent or long pants to help reduce the chances of a bite. It is also important to vaccinate horses and livestock.

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If you notice an infestation of mosquitoes, or if you see a source of standing water, please contact the San Bernardino County Environmental Health Services Department at (800) 442-2283. If you live on the West End in the cities Ontario, Chino, Chino Hills, Montclair and Rancho Cucamonga call West Valley Vector Control District at (909) 635-0307.

Residents are also encouraged to report any dead birds to the California West Nile Virus Hotline at 1-877-WNV-BIRD (1-877-968-2473) or online at [www.westnile.ca.gov](http://www.westnile.ca.gov).